Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00

FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 COME-00 BIB-01 DODE-00

DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 NASA-01 /050 R

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R 072010Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 078301

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

 $TAGS \hbox{:} \ ETEL, \ IT, \ UK$

SUBJECT: MARITIME SATELLITES

REF: ROME 4896

1. DEPARTMENT PLEASED TO SEE DEVELOPING LINE OF GOI THINKING REGARDING INMARSAT, AND FERRARI EXPECTATION GOI WILL BE ABLE SUPPORT US ON TWO-AGREEMENT APPROACH. US IS PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES TO MEMORANDUM CONTAINING ACTUAL TEXT OF MORE IMPORTANT ARTICLES OF THESE AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTEDTO IMCO SECRETARIAT FOR CONFERENCE CONFIDENTIAL

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STUDY. TEXT OF MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES WILL BE CABLED IN ADVANCE TO EMBASSY FOR PASSAGE TO FERRARI SO THAT GOI WILL HAVEOPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IN ADVANCE OF CONFERENCE.

2. REGARDING FERRARI'S TWO CONCERNS DESCRIBED PARA 3
REFTEL THEY ARE OF COURSE INTERRELATED. AN ARTICLE IN
ORGANIZATION'S INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SETTING UP
MECHANISM FOR NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OR DIVISION OF MANUFACTURING CONTRACTS RATHER THAN CONTRACTING WITHBIDDER
OFFERING BEST COMBINATION OF PRICE, QUALITY ANDDELIVERY
TIME WILL INEVITABLY ADD TO SYSTEM COST. DURING VISIT IN
EARLY FEBRUARY U.S. TEAM TOOK NOTE OF UNDERSTANDABLE GOI,
INTEREST IN MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITY FOR ITALIAN INDUSTRY
BUT FELT THAT ALTERNATIVE A OF POE DRAFT CONVENTION WAS
SO LOOSELY PHRASED THAT IT COULD PERMIT ALMOST COMPLETE
DISREGARD FOR INMARSAT ACQUIRING SPACE SEGMENT AT LOWEST

COST. US TEAM REITERATED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE EMBODIED IN ALTERNATIVE B BUT ALSO INDICATED THAT IT WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS MODIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVE B LANGUAGE SO LONG AS PRINCIPLE WAS NOT VIOLATED. IN REGARD TO REFTEL PARA 3B US SHARES GOI DESIRE TO ACHIEVE LOWEST POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES, AND INTEREST IN ACCURATE COST STUDIES.

3. US DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RAYMOND WALDMANN WHO WILL BE IN LONDON ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY PRIOR TO CONFERENCE AND WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH FERRARI TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. IF FERRARI WOULD LIKE MEETING THEN SUGGEST SCHEDULING BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN LONDON ON RECEIPT OF MESSAGE FROM AMEMBASSY ROME. US DELEGATION WILL TOTAL ABOUT 22 INCLUDING TEAM MEMBERS WHO VISITED ROME PLUS REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SHIPPING INDUSTRIES, FCC, MARAD AND NASA.

DECLASSIFIY 6-7-75 INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, AGREEMENTS, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 07 APR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE078301

Document Number: 1975STATE078301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: JJO'NEILL, JR:DBF

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: X2 Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750121-0383

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750474/aaaacqdh.tel Line Count: 94

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ORIGIN EB Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 ROME 4896

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: greeneet

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 04 JUN 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by greeneet>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MARITIME SATELLITES TAGS: ETEL, IT, UK

To: ROME

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006